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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 018788

SIPDIS

SIPDIS - ZAGREB FOR BELGRADE

THE FOLLOWING ISLAMABD 000767 DTD 22FEB08 SENT ACTION
SECSTATE INFO BELGRADE KABUL NEW DELHI PRISTINA KARACHI
LAHORE PESHAWAR USCENTCOM INTEL CAN MACDILL AFB FL
USNATO SECDEF CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL CIA REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION 25FEB08

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 000767

SIPDIS
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2018
TAGS: PREL UNMIK UN KV PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN STILL CONSIDERING RECOGNITION OF KOSOVO
INDEPENDENCE

REF: A. STATE 16319
1B. ISLAMABAD 654
1C. STATE 13716

Classified By: Political Counselor Candace Putnam, Reasons 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) In a February 20 meeting with Mirza Afzal Mahmood, MFA Director of the European Division, PolOff drew on Ref A points to explain the U.S. decision to recognize Kosovo as an independent state. PolOff asked if Pakistan was considering recognizing Kosovo's independence, noting the MFA had released a public statement February 19 stating Pakistan understood and supported the legitimate aspirations of the Kosovars. Mahmood confirmed Pakistan was sympathetic to Kosovo on this issue and has taken noted of the OIC's support, as well as that of other Muslim countries, but wants more time to consult before taking an official decision. Mahmood observed that the situation of Kosovo was similar to that of Kashmir, and said, in principle, Pakistan felt such regions had a right to self-determination.

PATTERSON

UNQUOTE: RICE